

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested. Entry of this Amendment under Rule 116 is merited as it raises no new issues and requires no further search.

Claims 7-15 are pending in the application. Claims 1-6 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 7-15 remain unchanged notwithstanding the Examiner's art rejections.

The rejections of claims 1-6 are moot as these claims have been cancelled.

The 35 U.S.C. 102(b) rejection of claims 7 and 11 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,429,850 to *Held* as well as the 35 U.S.C. 102(e) rejection of claims 7, 9, 12, 13, and 15 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,358,587 to *Saint* are **traversed**, because the references clearly fail to teach or disclose each and every element of the rejected claims, especially independent claim 7.

Claim 7 recites a sticker, comprising:

a sheet material having two opposite major surfaces and first and second adhesive regions both disposed on one of said major surfaces;

the first adhesive region (see, for example, 12, FIG. 2) being disposed adjacent an edge (see, for example, the edge near W, FIG. 2) of said sheet material;

the second adhesive region (see, for example, 13, FIG. 2) being spaced from the first adhesive region and an opposite edge (see, for example, the edge near 11, FIG. 2) of said sheet material by first (see, for example, L2, FIG. 2) and second (see, for example, 11, FIG. 2) areas of said major surface of said sheet material, respectively, at least said

second area (see, for example, L4, FIG. 2) being free of adhesive material;

wherein a width (see, for example, L4, FIG. 2) of said second area, as measured in a direction from the edge (see, for example, the edge near W, FIG. 2) adjacent to the first adhesive region to the opposite edge (see, for example, the edge near 11, FIG. 2), is larger than a width (see, for example, L3, FIG. 2) of said second adhesive region, as measured in said direction.

In other words, independent claim 7 requires that the width (see, for example, L4, FIG. 2) of the second, *adhesive-free* area between the second adhesive region and the opposite edge of the sheet material is **larger** than the width (L3, FIG. 2) of the second adhesive region.

Held, at best, teaches a structure similar to Applicant's Admitted Prior Art shown in FIG. 7 of the instant application. As can be seen in Fig. 1 of *Held* (attached Exhibit A), the reference teaches the opposite structure in which the width (l_1) of the second, adhesive-free area between the second adhesive region and the opposite edge of the sheet material is **smaller** than the width (l_2) of the second adhesive region.

Of particular note, the Examiner's reading of element 7 in FIG. 1 of *Held* on the claimed first area appears inaccurate, because the claimed first area is between the second adhesive region and the first adhesive region. See lines 5-7 of current claim 7. Thus, it is element 5 in FIG. 1 of *Held* that may be readable on the claimed first area. The "second area" of *Held* would then be 7 or 6 depending on which element, i.e., 3 or 4, is considered as the first adhesive region. In any event, *Held* clearly fails to teach or disclose the claimed width relationship because element 5 is wider than elements 6 and 7.

Held therefore does not anticipate independent claim 7.

Saint discloses an even more remote structure in FIGs. 2 thereof. Again, the Examiner appears to have incorrectly read the reference's teachings on the claim features. In particular, the Examiner's reading of the space between elements 30 and 50 in FIG. 2 of *Saint* on the claimed second area appears inaccurate, because the claimed second area is between the second adhesive region and the opposite edge, rather than between the adhesive regions. See lines 5-7 of current claim 7. Thus, the space between elements 30 and 50 in FIG. 2 of *Saint* may be readable at best on the claimed first area. The "second area" of *Saint* would then be the region corresponding to elements 22' and 24' which is, unlike the claimed invention, not free of adhesive material. See attached Exhibit B.

Saint therefore does not anticipate independent claim 7.

Withdrawal of the anticipatory rejections as well as the obviousness rejections relying on *Held* and *Saint* is now believed appropriate and therefore courteously solicited.

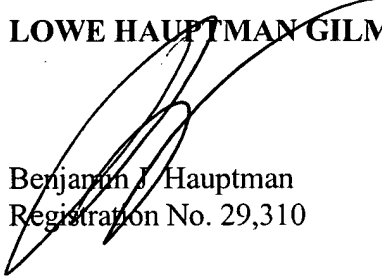
Accordingly, all claims in the present application, namely, claims 7-15 are now in condition for allowance. Early and favorable indication of allowance is courteously solicited.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned, Applicant's attorney of record, to facilitate advancement of the present application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 07-1337 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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